

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) invites interested citizens, government agencies, and the Permitted Facility to review and comment on a groundwater and subsurface soil remedy selection and modification to ExxonMobil's hazardous waste permit for their refinery located in Lockwood, Montana.

The proposed groundwater remedy includes source control via vacuum enhanced recovery, capture zone wells, and two interceptor trenches; groundwater quality monitoring; institutional controls; phytoremediation plots; and air sparging. Also included in the proposed remedy is a requirement for future investigation and remediation of soils that are inaccessible at this time due to plant activity and operations.

MDEQ has prepared a statement of basis / fact sheet that explains the current status of the site and proposed remedy selection for impacted groundwater and subsurface soil at the site. An environmental assessment (EA) has been prepared for these proposed remedies in accordance with the Montana Environmental Policy Act.

This notice is to inform the public of the proposed groundwater and subsurface soil remedy and related draft permit modification, the associated EA, and the statement of basis / fact sheet and to seek their participation in the decision-making process. The public is provided a minimum of forty-five (45) days to review and submit written comments on the proposed groundwater and subsurface soil remedy, draft permit modification, and EA before a final decision is made by MDEQ. The comment period will extend from December 22, 2008 through February 13, 2009.

During the public comment period, any interested person may request a public hearing. A request for a public hearing must be in writing and must state the nature of the issues proposed to be raised in the hearing. If a hearing is held, the MDEQ will provide notice of the public hearing date at least thirty days prior to the hearing.

The draft permit modification, draft EA, and statement of basis / fact sheet are available for examination at the Parmly Billings Public Library, 510 Broadway, Billings, Montana, phone 406/657-8257, and at the MDEQ, Waste and Underground Tank Management Bureau, Metcalf Building, 1520 E. 6th Ave., Helena, Montana, phone 406/444-3490. The statement of basis / fact sheet and EA will also be available for review on DEQ's internet website at: www.deq.state.mt.us/pubcom.asp.

All written comments on the draft permit should be addressed to Ann Kron, MDEQ, Permitting and Compliance Division, Waste and Underground Tank Management Bureau, P.O. Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901, phone 406/444-5824. **All written comments must be received by the MDEQ on or before February 13, 2009, for consideration.**

Based on the comments received, MDEQ will make a final decision to issue, deny, or change the permit modification request. Notice will then be given to the Permittee and each person who submitted written comments or requested a notice of the decision. The final permit decision shall become effective thirty (30) days after the service of notice of the decision, unless a later date is specified. If no comments are received requesting changes to the proposed groundwater and subsurface soil remedy and draft permit modification, the permit becomes effective immediately upon issuance.

For additional information contact Ann Kron at 406/444-5824.

Dated: December 17, 2008